A SPEECH FROM MR. WINTHROP.

The subjoined Speech of the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, delivered at a public dinner in Faneuil Hall, Boston, on the late anniversary of American Independence, possesses, no doubt, for a majority of our readers the same interest as for us. It was elicited by the following toast:

"The Past Members of Congress: Boston is justly proud of the list of those of the illustrious dead and of the respected and honored living who have represented her interests in the National Councils—may their enlarged patriotism and devetion to the Constitution be the guiding principles which

This sentiment having been received with great enthusiasm, and three times three heartily given for Mr. Winterop, he rose and responded as fol-

I could not find it in my heart, Mr. Mayor, to decline the kind request of your committee that I would be present here to-day and say a few words in reply to the sentiment which has just been proposed. I am greatly honored by be-ing designated to sespond to such a sentiment, and by thus which has just been proposed. I am greatly hotsited to be just being sethorized to septoporists to my self some humble share of the compliment which it contains. It has been my fortune to serve the people of Boston, in the Congress of the United States, for a longer period, I believe, than any one who has rep esented them since the adoption of the Constitution. I do not forget, however, by whom I have been preceded. I do not forget that upon the list of my respected and illustrious predecessors, te which you have alluded, are contained the names of Otis and Eestis and Ames, among the dead; of Quincy and Gorham and Lawrence and Webster, among she living. [Great applause.] As: I remember these and other names, I am desply sensible of my own deficiencies, both comparative and positive. But while I freely confess myself inferior to all who have preceded or followed me, in the ability and success of my services, I do not yield to any of them, either among the dead or the kiving, in the warmth of my attachment to my country and its institutions, in the my attachment to my country and its institutions, in the carnestness of my efforts to advance the interests of my con-stituents, or in the sincerity of my desire to promote harmony,

conciliation, and concord among the whole American people.

[This sentiment was received with great cheering.]

And now, fellow-citizene, I know not how to thank you for this cordial and flattering reception. I am here, as you know, with no tive to concideration save such as may result from a public career which has recently been brought to a After aixteen or seventeen years of official employ-in-different tranches of the State and National Legisla-I am once more in the rank and file of private citizen-My place in the procession and at the table to-day is ng the Eres. An ex-member of the General Court, an among the Errs. An expenser of the General Court, an ex member of Congress, an ex-Speaker, an ex-Senator, I am an ex-every thing, excepting only and always that which, thank Heaven, no party combinations and no personal prejudices can-ever prevent me from being—a Eoston boy, a Massachusetts man, a citizen of the United States, an American freeman—with a heart full of-gratitude to those to whose unmerited favor I one whatever homer I have enjoyed, and full of love and loyetty also to the Constitution and the Union of that metical countries in whose councils I have an long

will be owing to no effect, solicitation, or desire of my own if it shall ever be changed. There is, in my judgment, quite as much of truthes there is of wit in the saving of a dis d Virginia politician on some occasion, that, in the alphabet of a true philecophy, the X's are at least acxt door to the X's, (wife.) [Laughter.] I will not say that "the poet of honor is a private station;" but I will say—and you, Mr. Mayor, will know how to agree with me—that the post of personal comfort, of true-satisfaction, and of inward peace, is not always a public one. Gertainly, follow-citizens, you will all give me ceedit for realizing at this hour, that if a termination of my Conversional means a second me no other tion of my Congressional career had secured me no other boon than that of hereafter enjoying a comfortable Fourth of July dinner like this, in old Fancuil Hall, instead of being doomed to endure the almost blistering rays of a Washington sun every alternate year, I might well congratulate myself on

Why, sir, where should an American desire to be on a Fourth of July but in Fancuil Hall? Where else can be breathe the very natal sit of American independence? Where else can he quench his thirst at the very fountain-head of American liberty? Whatever part Massachusetts may have sustained in the great controversies which have agitated the country in later years—and I am not ready to admit that it has been an unwor hy or an inferior one—ne one will ven-ture to suggest that she played any thing less than the first part in that great drams whose opening scenes we are assem-bled to commemorate. Gishow many of the great events of the Revelution was not Massachusetts the stage? How many of them were enected almost within eye-shot and ear-shot of the spot on which we stand? The heights which overhang hind them—the harbor at our feet—the Hall in which we are assembled—State street—the Old State House—the Old South—where else was engendered that noble spirit, that fearless purpose, that unconquerable resolve, of which the Declaration of Independence was, after all, only the mere formal and coremonous produmation? We sometimes talk playfully about the swalls having ears. Oh, sir, if these walls

spplause.]

Let me not seem to disparage the particular act which we meet to celebrate, or to be disposed to deck these hallowed columns with I urels stripped from other theatres. There are enough for all. The Declaration itself was a bold and noble act. Honor to the pen which draughted it! Honor to the tongue which advocated it! Honor to the hands which signed it! Monor to the brave hearts and gallant arms which maintained and sindicated it! Honor to the five Massachu-setts Delegates in the Congress of that day, who were second to none in that idustrious body for ability, eloquence, and patrioti-m—Hancock, under whose sole signature it was originally published, the two Adamses, Eibridge Gerry, and Robert Teat Paine. Henor to them all!

Robert Treat Paine. Honor to them all!

Indeed, the more one reflects on the real character of that act the more full of noble courage it appears. Remember, sir, that there was no divided responsibility in that Congress. There were no shocks and balances in our confederated system. There was no concurrent vote of a second branch; there was no Executive signature, no Executive veto to fall back upon. Fifty-six Belegates, chosen, as you yourself have just suggested, long before there was any distinct contemplation of such a course, sitting in a single chamber with closed. tion of such a course, sitting in a single chamber with closed doors, in the capital of a colony by no means the most ripe for such a movement, are found, doing what? Taking the tremendous responsibility of adopting a resolution and pro-mulgating an instrument which may not only subject their own properly to conficcation, and their own necks to the hai-ter, but which must involve their constituents and their country in a war for existence and of incalculable duration with the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. There was no example for such a deed. There was no precedent on file for such a declaration. And who will say that, to put one's name to such an instrument, under such circumstances, in the clear, bold unmistakable character of John Hancock, was an exhibition of a courage less heroic than that which has rendered many nmortal on the field of battle ? [Applause.]

Sill, sir, the way had been opened for such a proceeding; the popular heart had been prepared for it. As was well said by John Adams at the tisse, if the question was not whether by a Declaration of Independence we should make ourselves what we are not, but whether we should declare a fact which a leady with " a ready exists." And how did that fact exist? How had it been brought about? By what events but those which had occurred at Concord and Lexington, at Bunker Hill and in Faneuil Hall? By what men but by our own Otis, and Quincy, and Hancock, and Hawley, and Bowdoin, and Samuei Adams, and John Adams, and Paul Revere, and Prescott, and Warren, and all that glorious company of Massachusetts patriots, whose names will live forever.
You have all taken notice, I doubt not, fellow-citizens,

the beautiful experiment which has been in operation at Bunker Hill for some weeks pust, for making visible the revolution of the earth, by a pendulum suspended from the apex of the monument. It has furnished a convincing proof of the correctness of those great physical laws of the universe which philosophy had long ago unfolded to us. But I could not help reflecting, as I witnessed it the other day, that Bunker Hill had done something more than merely furnish a convenient place for exhibiting the visible and tangible evidence of the world's motion. Sir, it has itself made the world more. [This sentiment was received with great appliance.] the beautiful experiment which has been in operation at Bun

more! [This sentiment was received with great applause. And if, by some mechanical arrangement of pendulums o clock-work, it were possible to mark the course of the moral and political changes of mankind, and to trace them back to their original impulse—where, where would it be, but to Bunker Hill or Faneu! Hall, that we shou'd betake ourselves

the Equator—to witness the most exact and perfect illustration of the world's progress, and to find the very primum mobile of those great revolutions, American and European, by which human liberty, during the present century, has been so vastly advanced and extended?

I am not disposed, Mr. Mayor, to indulge in too much of local complacency, or of sectional pride, on such an occasion as this. We have come together, not as Bostoniens or as New Englanders, but as Americans. We have assembled as New Englanders, but as Americans. We have assembled to celebrate the birth day of our country, and I would embrace in all the good wishes, and pleasant remembrances, and proud anticipations which belong to the hour, that whole country, in all its length and breadth, from the Atlantic to

the Pacific, from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico. l would associate with all the homage which we render to he memory of the revolutionary patriots and heroes of our wn State, the Hamiltons and Jays, the Morrises and Frankown State, the Hamiltons and Jays, the Morrises and Franklins, the Laurenses and Marions, the Henrys and Jeffersons,
and, above all, the unapproached and unapproachable WassINGTON, of other States. [Applause.] I would think of
our country, to-day and always, as one in the glories of the
past, one in the grandeur of the present, and one undivided and
indivisible in the destinies of the future. [Immense applause.]
But at a moment when there seems to be a willingness in
some quarters to disparage our ancient Commonwealth, and
almost to rule her out from the catalogue of patriot States, I
have not been unwilling to revive some recollections of our have not been unwilling to revive some recollections of our local history, and of the part of which she has played in

other days.

I could hardly help feeling that if we were to hold our

I could tardly help feeling that if we were to hold our peace, the very stones would cry out. Sir, in all that relates to liberty and union, Massachusetts, I am persuaded, is to-day just what she was seventy-five years ago. [Vociferous applause.] There is no variableness or shadow of turning in her devotion to the great principles of her revolutionary fathers, acr will she ever, as I believe, be found wanting to any just obligation to her sister States. [Cheers.]

Mr. Mayor, the act of the 4th of July, 1776, was an act of revolution. It was an act of organized and systematic resistance to an oppressive and tyrannical Government. It was a solemn and stern appeal from the decrees of a foreign despot to that great original right of self-preservation and self-government which the Declaration so nobly promulgates. Thanks to the courage of our fathers, the appeal was successful, and the yoke of colonial bondage was forever thrown off.

But another and more difficult task was still to be performed by them, without which all their previous toils and trials would have been worse than useless. The work of overthrow, separation, independence, completed, the greater labor of building up a system of government for themselves remained—a system which should render revolutions ferever unnecessary, by establishing law and order on the basis of the popular will constitutionally expressed. That labor, also, was performed. The constitution was framed, adopted, and organized, and we and our fathers have lived another it for a organized, and we and our fathers have lived under

ttle more than sixty-two years. Yee, fellow-citizens, we have reached a marked epoch declared. But, if I mistake not, something of a mysterious significance has been attached to the precise age which our constitution has now reached. A man in his sixty-third year is said to be at a critical period in his life. It is called his "grand climacteric." If he safely passes over that period he tooks for a long continuance of life and health. And our Federal Constitution has at length reached its grand cli-

to the exact amount of danger in which we have been in-volved, and as to the precise manner in which our contro-versies have been adjusted, nobody will deny that circumstances have occurred to mark the period through which we are passing as a more than commonly critical period in our political existence. But, thanks to that Almighty Being who shapes our ends and controls our destinies, the shades which seem gathering over our pathway are already scattered, the bow is clearly visible upon the clouds, and the sky above us

bow is clearly visible upon the clouds, and the sky above us is beginning to be once more radiant with the healing beams of a restored national concord!

Let us not indulge ourselves, however, in any hopes or in any fears, founded only on a superstitious tradition. Human life may have its mysterious periods of safety and of danger, and they may be altogether beyond our control. We know that it has any action and no actions to the same are set and no and they mey be altogether beyond our control. We know that it has one period which no prudence can avert and no foresight postpone. We "cannot stay mortality's strong hand." The beloved Chief Magistrate who, this day last year, was engaged in adding another stone to the monument of his illustrious exemplar, was himself the subject of a monument before the expiration of a single week. And the patriotic hands and eloquent voices which are assistive this day is being the second strong of a part Capital. eisting this day in laying the corner-stone of a new Capitel, may have become motionless and mute before that structure shall have reached its completion. One after another, we must all meet "the mexorable hour." But not so with our country. There is no natural term to the life of a nation. It is for the people te say, as they rise up, generation after generation, to the eajeyment of the constitutions which their father's have founded, whether, by God's blessing, they will transmit them unimpaired to their children.

It is for us to say, whether we will be true to those great elements of Fig. 1.

elements of Free Government; to those noble principles of Li-berty and of Law, and to that blessed compact of Union which our fathers have enshrined in the Constitution of the United

States. [Cheers.]

If we are but faithful to that great bond and bulwark of our Union, the Constitution, critical periods may come and go—there may be grand climacterics and petty crises—stars may rise and set—the great and the good may fall on our right band and our left—but the country, the country, will curvive them all—will survive us all—and will stand before the world an imperishable monument of the patriotism of the cone, as well as of the wisdom and virtue of their sires.

the following sentiment: for our own country; perpetuity to the Union of the States; and a faithful fulfilment of the Constitutional Compact by all who are parties to it."

In Stamford, Connecticut, on the night of the Fourth, some persons loaded an old twelve-pounder cannon to the muzzle and fired it off with a slow match. It burst, and one piece playfully about the walls having ears. Oh, sir, it these walls could have had ears three quarters of a century ago, and if they could find a tongue now, what a tale would they not unfold of the taxe rise and progress of American literty! [Great applause.]

Let me not seem to disparage the particular act which we meet to celebrate, or to be disparage to deck these hallowed. another house, narrowly missing a man in bed. Mr. R. Gage was sitting within six feet of the gun at the time of the explosion, and, strange to say, in the midst of the storm of iron he was untouched.

> TROOT are said to be very plenty in the neighborhood of Bombay Hook. The Wilmington papers note the fact that Mr. Jacob Hill, a fisherman of that city, recently at one haul took three thousand pounds of trout. At another haul he took something over that. Several of the trout were of tremendous size; some of them were nine and a half eleven pounds weight, the rest averaging from three to five

> DEATES BY HYDROPHOBIA. - Two deaths by hydrophobis occurred at New York during the past week. One of the victims was a boy named John Slater, who died in great agony very shortly after being bitten. The other was a little boy, only three years of age, a son of Mr. Weeks. He received the bite which caused his death about four weeks ago.

PROVIDENTIAL DISPENSATION .- On Tuesday last we wit nessed in this place a scene the most heartrending and melan-choly. About 4 o'clock in the evening a light cloud, heavily charged with electricity, was passing over this city, from which there fell but little rain. At the same time a wood-boat, be-longing to Mr. Andrew J. Trimble, who resided near this

The phenomenon of rain without clouds, which the Philadelphia North American notices as having occurred in that city on Wednesday of last week, was noticed at Norristown by the editor of the Free Press, who says: "Precisely the same phenomenon was observed at this place about a quarter past 10 o'clock on the same evening. On the north and northwest horizon dark clouds were resting, from which lightning issued at repeated intervals. These clouds did not rise from the horizon more than thirty degrees. Over head ture in the trade of this country, as the Cape Cod and other it was perfectly clear, and the stars shone forth with remarka-ble brightness. In this state of the heavens, the rain com-menced falling quite smartly, increasing in volume as it fell,

ALLIGATOR STORY .- The following letter, says the Jacksonville (Fia.) News, from "old Moses," a free negro resid-ing on Lake Monroe, to his sister residing in Jacksonville, we give verbatim from the original in our possession. This is alligator attacking a grown man on this river; and if it had not been for that "little batchet," poor "Mose" would not have lived to tell the tale. Long may he survive to "split" [Advocate.

I am your affectionate Brother To Juda

SIRIUS_THE DOG STAR.

Messrs. Epirons : I have seen for a day or two past, travelling round in the newspapers, a paragraph respecting the "Eccentric Movement of the Fixed Stars," among which are included the fixed star "Sirius," or the "Dog Star." The following is the paragraph to which I allude;

"ECCEPTRIC MOVEMENT OF THE FIX AD STARS .- At meeting of the Berlin Academy of Sciences, held on May 31st, the venerable Alexander Von Humboldt made an interesting communication upon some observations of singular movements of fixed stars. It seems that at Trieste, January movements of fixed stars. It seems that at Trieste, January 17, 1851, between seven and eight o'clock P. M., before the rising of the moon, when the star Sirius was not far from the horizon, it was seen to perform a remarkable series of eccentric movements. It rose and sank, moved left and right, and sometimes seemed to move in a curved line. The observers were Mr. Keune, a student in the upper class of the symmasium, and Mr. Thugutt, a saddler, both certified to be reliable persons. The family of the latter also beheld the phenomenon. Mr. Keune, with his head leaned immoveably against a wall, saw Sirius rise in a right line above the roof of a neighboring house, and immediately again sink out of sight behind it, and then again appear. Its motions were so considerable that for some time the beholders thought it was a lattern suspended by a kite. It also varied in brilliancy, growing alternately brighter and fainter, and now and then being for moments quite invisible, though the sky was perfectly clear. As far as it is known, this phenomenon has been remarked but twice before—once in 1799, from the Peak of Tener fle, by Von Humboldt himself, and again, nearly fifty years later, by a well-informed and very careful observer,

Now, this subject comes before the world with the high sanction of that prince of philosophers, Humboldt, or so purports to come. But, from the incongruity of the statement made of the perceptible movement of Sirius with the facts which astronomy teaches of that star, I must believe that an error has been fallen into, and that Humboldt never could have made a statement of the above nature.

The star Sirius is supposed to be one of the nearest fixed stars to our system. It is, according to the best computation, not less than thirty-two billions (32,000,000,000) of miles from us, a distance so inconceivable that no mind can comprehend it. So great is the space traversed by the light of that star that a cannon ball would not be less than seven millions of years in reaching & from our perceive it from the earth. Why, for a phenomenon of that sort to be at all observable on this planet, the star Sirius would require to oscillate in one instant a distance greater than the entire circumference of the orbit of the planet Herschel, some believe it who would give the subject a moment's thought.

Beside the mere fact of a body like that of the star Sirius passing with such inconceivable velocity through space as to make its motion visible to us, what would be the effect upon the planets revolving about it? We may imagine, by supposing our sun to strike off in a tangent for several illions of miles. Confusion and destruction must inevitably follow to its whole bright train.

Further; our distance from the sun is about 95,000,000 of miles. The earth traverses nearly 3,000,000 of miles of its orbit every twenty-four hours; and yet, with this velocity, and our comparatively near proximity to the sun, we cannot distinguish, by the nicest observation with the naked eye, the daily motion of the earth in its orbit.

Now, I am willing to admit one thing: that, from some peculiarity of the atmosphere, the ap-pearances alluded to in the above paragraph may have been witnessed. But I am certain, from the facts I have already adduced, and others which I might adduce, that it is clearly improbable that so sublime an eccentric motion of Sirius could either. in the first place, occur, or, if it did or could occur, in the second place, that its immense distance invented.

WASHINGTON, JULY 13, 1851. COPERNICUS.

"THREE MILLION BALES OF COTTON."

MESSES. EDITORS : A manufacturer in the West has stated this year be the above enormous quantity. Now, for the information of the numerous readers of your widely-diffused truth-telling paper, allow yourselves to assure those interested in our staple to know "the fact," that, however many millions we may plant, still that, owing to the specified known number of our slaves, (pickers of the crop,) we cannot, for want of the hands, exceed a crop of 2,400,000 bales. One or two years, when the cotton appeared to come to the sea-(should no damage attack the crop) 500,000 or 600,000 ness of the earth's surface, if so it once was, will account for bales less than our friend in the West desires it. It is to be all the principal geological appearances we now witness. the stories in these country papers, and refuse to buy in Europe unless at a dead lose to the grower. By and by the truth comes out, and the European and American mill-owner has were formed there when those places were covered with water. to come into market and pay fifty to one hundred per cent. They were the first and isolated productions, because the more to speculators, or else stop his works and his workmen.

A COTTON PLANTER, (of Georgia.)

LIQUOR SEIZURES IN MAINE. -The authorities in th longing to Mr. Andrew J. Trimble, who resided near this place, had broken from its fastenings, and was floating down the river. Mr. T., discovering it, jumped aboard a skiff lying at the wharf for the purpose of overtaking it. He requested Mr. Free to go with him in order to assist in bringing back the bost. They had proceeded but a few rods from the shore when Mr. Trimble was struck by lightning on the left side of his head, the fluid passing down his body, and shivering the seat on which he sat. The hair was burnt from his head, and the skin broken on his breast. The fluid finally passed on the skin broken on his breast. The fluid finally passed on the skiff penetrating the solid plank on the side. different cities and towns in Maine are carrying out the proviand the skin broken on his breast. The fluid finally passed out of the skiff, penetrating the solid plank on the side.

Mr. Trimble was instantly killed, and fell back lifeless, with his head and aboulders in the water. Mr. Free, who sat near him, was prostrated by the concussion, and remained apparently insumate for a long time.

Louisiana (Mo.) Banner.

Contomined by the ronce count of the same piece, were also destroyed. At Portland, on Friday, Charles W. Childs was examined, charged with selling two quarts of brandy, and was fined to dollars and costs. On Saturday he was brought up on a second complaint, and pleaded nol. con., and was fined twenty dollars and costs. Further prosecution was stayed on condition that he would sell no more.

LARE MICHIGAN FISHERIES .- Very few, we believe, are aware of the extent to which fishing is carried on along the shores of Green Bay, and the numerous islands near it, and stretching across Lake Michigan as far as Mackinac. The increase of this business for the past two or three years indicates that ere long it will become a very prominent feafisheries have on the New England coast. The principal fishing points on and near the route from Green Bay to Mackinac are at Grand Traverac, Fish Creek, Washington Harbor, Rock Island, and the Fox and Beaver Islands. There are numerous other fishing grounds of lesser note; in ties are lined with fishing apparatus. The statistics of the the first well-authenticated instance we have ever met of an trade for the present year will probably show figures already bottom is not composed of materials that would form a self-

open" more heads of the same sort!

Melonyille Fla May 14 1851.

Dear sister I must this day take my Pen in hand to inform you of my mistortune. Last monday was a weak ago I was going to Lake Jesup and was out in the water and a very large flagator caught me by the Lesg and ankle woned me very Bad in deed I am at the Lake yet I had Liked to bleed to deth it was don a bought 10 colock in the day on monday and it was not stoped untell next day, and if it had not bin for a little hatchet was in the Boat he would of killed me but the first think that got hold of was that little hatchet and I split his head opon with it.

Deer sister I must com a close I was well before this acteer.

Cuickens by Express.—We were shown, at the office of the Messra. Adams & Co.'s Express, of this city, on yesterdsy, four beautiful specimens of the Cochin (China) to decide in the work of Bostoo, Massachusetts, to the Hon. Herby Clay, of Kontucky. These beautiful birds were apparently about one year old, and remarkably large, the male measuring from 30 to 32 inches in beight, and about 15 pounds weight; the hens (three in number) less of course, but fully as large as the common sized turkey hens—all in fine health. We do not know what to expect next by express; but the signit of Adams & Co. here says he will bring the Emperor of China. Adams & Go, here says he will bring the Emperor of China himself, if any body will ship him, in good order, well conditioned, and right side up.—Louisville Democrat.

TOTHE EDITORS.

SUBSIDENCE OF OCEANS, SEAS, LAKES, &c.

Sirs: In the Intelligencer of June 21st I see article written by W. D. PORTER, in which he attempts to account for the above phenomenon on the supposition that shell-fish and corr insects abstract from the water of the sea salt, soda, and lime, from which they manufacture their shells, the coral reefs, and the foundations of islands; all which is doubtless true. But all this will not, so far as my ressoning powers enable me to determine, account for the subsiding of the water, nor indeed diminish the quantity of it, unless Mr. P. can show that the aggregate volume of the shells and coral rocks occupy less space in the vast basin of the oceans than their ingredients did before they were transmuted; for we know that the greater quantity of these shells and rocks remain in the water, and whatever quantity of water mg be consumed by the living beings inhabiting it will be mad up, in my estimation, by the hydrogen arising from vegeables decaying in it, and uniting with the oxygen in theatmo sphere. It will also be remembered that all the rivers of the earth constantly carry vast quantities of solid matter fom the land into the lakes, seas, and oceans, tending to fill ip their basins. Mr. P. justly says, if one thousand pounds if water were taken from the ses, and shell-fish and insects set to work in it, the remaining water, after they had formed their shells and rocks, would both weigh less and occupy see space than the quantity before they were set to work ; by this fact affords him no argument, unless he supposes the hells and rocks to be taken out after they have been formed for, if all be left together, there will be no diminution of weight or

pasins. I have no idea that the actual quantity apportaining to our planet is undergoing a diminution, any more tlan that the quantity of air belonging to atmospheric ocean is decreasing. The great omniscient and omnipotent Architect of the Universe made no such bungling work as that. He has most amply provided the natural means of reproducing every thing that is, as it were, consumed, or enters into combina-tion with other things. For instance, though oxygen enters into combination with nitrogen to form atmosphe with nearly all the metals forming their several oxides and is united by electricity in the ocean of air to form water, &c., globe. If, then, this distance be so great, which yet oxygen is supplied by the natural process of vegetation in none doubt, how improbable is the statement that such inexhaustible quantities that the supply has as yet suf-whatever movement that star might have we could fered no diminution, so far as we know; and the same observation may be made with regard to the aggregate quantity of hydrogen, one of the constituents of water.

Supposing, as Mr. P. infers, from his own reasoning. the ocean were to become "a mere strait, or perhaps a rivulet," what would be the consequence? It is well known 480,000,000 of miles. The impossibility of a that the principal part of the water that falls from the atmo movement of an orb like that of Sirius, which is sphere in the forms of rain, hail, snow, and dew, is evapor-doubtless the centre of a system of planets like ated from the surface of large bodies of water, while much ours, is so palpable that none, it would seem, could less, especially of the latter, fails there than on dry land. Now, suppose the aggregate surface of water on the earth were to dwindle into ineignificance, compared with what it now is, and the quantity of moisture precipitated from the atmosphere would become insignificant in the same proportion; vegetation would of course cease, and animal life be come extinct for want of sustenance.

But the question, what is the cause of the subsiding of the

Let me conclude, then, by offering, as an expression of my best wishes for my country, on its seventy-fifth birthday, either by the naked eye or the best instruments yet tion? We read of the sinking of low and comparatively level ance of a single mountain, so far as I know. It is said very small islands have appeared in the ocean, the result of volcanic action, which might have been expected; but where has a mountain, three or eight thousand, or even fifty miles in a Western paper that he expected our crop of cotton would length, ever been heaved from the bosom of the deep ? Such

n instance is not on record. It is admitted by all geologists that our planet was once in a fluid, and then in a liquid state, and is yet in that condition at no very great depth below the solid surface. If this supposition, confirmed by indubitable evidence, be true, it will account for the spheroidal form of the earth. But, if this state was the effect of interior heat, it is evident that the earth'edimensions were once much greater than at present, and are ports in a larger quantity, it was owing to the stale parcels of still decreasing, provided its internal heat continue to be rathe year before coming down and being added to such crops, diated as formerly; for all bodies diminish in size in proporbecause of the prices of preceding years being so low as tion as heat leaves them. Now, the rotation of a fluid body not to pay for putting it up and forwarding to market. Last revolving on a fixed axis would give it the spheroidal form. year and this year, the prices being at last remunerative, But then its surface, regulated by the attraction of its mass every bale was sent that possibly could be picked. Conse- and the centrifugal force of its particles, would be regular, quently, this year, the quantity that can come for sale is without any considerable projection any where. This smooth

regretted that our European customers are often led away by 1. The primary and oldest fossil remains are the exuvia shell-fish, which are found on some high, if not the highest, mountains on our globe, and in such quantities as prove they

earth was then not fit to produce and sustain any others. 2. The next remains are of vegetable origin, such as strata o stone-coal, the vast accumulations of which, in some particular localities, can only be accounted for on the supposition that vegetation was once much more prolific in those regions where they exist than at present.

3. Next come the fossil remains of animals, for the suste nance of which the earth does not now afford materials, such as the mammoth, the megatherium, the Saurian tribes, &cc., whose remains are generally, if not exclusively, found in the emperate and south part of the north frigid zones.

4. The last fossil remains are those of the human race which are by far the least abundant. I know that the existence of these has been disputed, but I refer the incredulous to the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal, vol. 1, p. 422. Now the deductions naturally following from the facts al

ready stated are-1. That the earth was peopled with sentient beings, in successive gradations, as its surface became a suitable habitation for them, and afforded sustenance.

2. That there was a time when mountains did not exist on he earth's surface ; that the places now occupied by mountains were once covered by a liquid, in which shells, that can now only be formed in water, were accumulated in vast quantities, by agents which produce them now only in the basin of

3. That as the earth radiated its heat her volume diminished, and the parts which radiated fastest stood firm and became eminences, and now constitute the mountains and elpine regions of our globe. Now, this radiation of heat being still in progress, and the earth's volume decreasing pari passu fact, the shores every where which present the proper facili- with it, there can be no great difficulty in accounting for the subsiding of the bottom of large sheets of water, where that sustaining arch, and where heat is radiated with the greatest facility, nor for the consequent subsiding of the surface, causing the ocean and lakes to retire from their now existing shores.

4. That, when the earth became a fit habitation for sentient beings, it produced animals of gigantic size, as well as other species of inconceivable minuteness, such as were a few years since found in a fossil state near Petersburg, (I think that is the place,) in Virginia, for the support of all which it is now adapted.

5. That the human race is the last link in the chain of

God's boundless expation, so far ; and may perhaps be destimed, in the revolution of countless coming ages, to disappear from the face of the earth, with all the sentient beings now existing on it, to be replaced by yet more beautiful and

tation. But this is mere speculation, based upon the gradual charges which are known to be in progress in our planet, it is tree. In fact, all God's works are progressive, and every being and thing is adapted to the sphere it occupies, with a nicety of perfection that would, one should think, confound the most

6. If my theory of the earth, as advanced above, be it will be remembered that the causes I have assigned to fitting it gradually for the habitation of man, and shich are

still in operation, are the same to the operation of which La Place attributes the formation of solar systems. As Mr. Pouren has set as name to his article, it may

erhaps be proper to anne mine to this. Very respectably, yours, &c. H. R. SCHETTERLY.

Howell, Michigan, July 4, 1851. THE CENSUS IN THE UNITED STATES.

FROM THE LONDON TIMES. The preliminary returns of the census of Great Britain an that of the United States of America appearing simultaneously in this country, naturally lead to a comparison of the diff these two important portions of the Old World and the New. The general results which have just seen the light clearly in dicate that there must have been a very considerable diversity in the apparatus employed in the two countries, and it may be productive of some advantage to have public attention just now directed to the manner in which "they manage things" on the other side of the Atlantic. The schedules employed by the enumerators in the census of Great Britain, and the arrangements so effectually carried out by these officers, having been already detailed, it is necessary, for the comparison proposed, only to present a view of the means employed by the United States Government, and which, it will be seen, fur-

United States Government, and which, it will be seen, furnish many topics of great interest, open of course to much discussion, but suggestive of several ideas which must engage the attention of the public and the Government before the work of the census is again performed.

The management of the United States census was entrusted to Mr. Kennedy, of Washington, a gentleman who has devoted to the undertaking an amount of intelligence and enthusiasm which have done him the greatest honor, by associating his name with one of the most remarkable productions of human skill and perseverance.

The Constitution of the United States requires a mere enumeration of the inhabitants every ten years; the object of this simple form of census being to furnish a basis for an equal representation in the Congress, and, should a necessity for it arise, for the apportionment of taxes for the support of the General Government. The necessity for a careful enumeration of the slave as well as of the free population arises from the law by which the slaveholding States are crearises from the law by which the slaveholding States are credited in the representation to the extent of three fifths of their slaves in addition to the numbers of their free population. Thus, while the free man counts for one vote, five slaves count for three men, and their numbers become important elements in every election.

The first census of the United States was taken in 1790, and divided the population into five classes, as follows:

1. Free white males under 16 years of age.

White males of 16 years of age and above.
 Free white females of all ages.

5. Free persons of color.
In this first census it will be observed that the Congres ade some addition to the simple requirement of the Const tion by introducing five tables where one would have sati fied the strict requirement of the original law.

In the census of 1800 the Congress directed the

ber of white and colored mutes, without respect to sex, and also the number of blind, both white and colored.

In the sixth census, 1840, different classifications were to ages, and extensive inquiries were instituted with refernee to agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and education By these successive stages, which it has been considered important to mark, the census operations have been gradually pushing on towards the Roman type, until the United States boast of a Conspectus which includes all that is essential to a perfect and thorough understanding of the numbers, occupations, and wealth of their population, as well as their intellec-

tions, and wealth of their population, as well as their intellec-tual, social, moral, and sanitary state.

In 1849 the Congress passed a law which assigned the census operations to a board, consisting of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, and the

State, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, and the Secretary, Mr. Kennedy, who indeed appears to have been the originator and principal executant of the whole work.

The comprehensive schedules issued by this board provide for a vast amount of information in all the matters to which they relate, and include a number of returns which in this country it would be deemed inquisitorial to call for, but which the citizens of the Federal Government, it is said, have, with scarcely an exception, afforded with the utmost readiness.

Five schedules were issued for all the free States, and a sixth for those in which there are alsays.

sixth for those in which there are slaves. The first of these schedules relates to the free white and colored population, and, referring only to population, is arranged very much like that issued by the Registrar-General of colored population, and, referring only to population, is arranged very much like that issued by the Registrar-General of this country. It is constructed with a view to obtain in the simplest form a number of facts, showing the present condition of the people, and to exhibit them in various relations. The object has been to procure the exact age of each person, male and female, white and black, bond and free, and to sequence the results in such a form as would admit of an essy comparison with every former census. The first column gives the number of dwelling-houses in the order of visitation, and the second gives the number of families, the comparison of both of course showing the proportion of families to houses. Then follow columns for the name, age, sex, and color of each person, distinguishing the white, black, and mulatto races, the object being to afford the means of judging of the influence of the admixture of races on the physical condition of the mulatto. Next is a column, the seventh, giving the profession, occupation, or trade of each person. The eighth column gives the value of the real estate owned, whether in the county in which the person resides or elsewhere. The ninth column gives the place of birth, so as to show to what extent one State has contributed to the population of another, and also the number of foreigners and the different countries whence they have gone. The tenth column gives the number of married within the pear, the eleventh the number attending school, the twelfith the number of different countries whence they have gone. The tenth co-lumn gives the number of married within the year, the elev-enth the number attending school, the twelfth the number of adults unable to read and write, and the thirteenth the num-ber of deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idietic, paupers, and con-victs. By this arrangement the census returns furnish the means of observing the relation of crime, ignorance, and phy-sical infirmity to a great variety of conditions by which they may be influenced.

In the absence of a registration of births, deaths, and mar-riages, there is obviously a greater necessity for some of the

riages, there is obviously a greater necessity for some of the particulars enumerated than would be found in this country, and it is anticipated that the different States will before very long follow the example of Pennsylvania, in which State a law has recently been enacted by which such registration has been established.

The second schedule relates to the slave population, and gives the ages of all slaves, with their sexes and color, specifying also the number who have fled from their owners, the number manumitted, and the number of deaf, dumb, blind, insane, and idiotic. It was not considered necessary to include in this schedule inquiries relating to other facts required of the free population, inasmuch as the profession, occupation, and trade of a slave depend on the master, and vary with circumstances. He can own no "real estate," his place of birth cannot be returned with certainty, and his removal from State to State is a matter of frequent occurrence; masters, in many instances, are not able to say where their slaves are born, and if the fact could be arrived at, it is not considered a matter of much practical utility. As to their "marriages," the laws relating to them recognise none; but few are "educated;" and as the Government of the United States has no right to interfere in any way with the moral, social, or political condition of this class, and no right to legislate respecting it, except to establish the ratio of representation and the apportionment of taxes, it was determined to limit the inquiries in the manner specified, and not to load the consument further particulars which could not increase its value and might demage its popularity.

The third schedule relates to the statistics of mortality, and The second schedule relates to the slave population, and might demage its popularity.

The third schedule relates to the statistics of mortality, and

died in the 'ar, their names, ages, ser, color, state of free dom or stery, of marriage or widowhood, place of birth month death, profession, occupation or trade, disease, an numb of days ill. It was anticipated that these inquiries word not be answered with a sufficient degree of accuracy the result has proved quite otherwise. The statistics of a containing are said to be nearly perfect, except in some of the containing where the population fluctuates. The combination cities, where the population fluctuates. The combin facts in this schedule exhibit the influence of climate of and longevity, and will assist the immigrant in the s of a healthy place in which to pitch his tent. In conwith these facts an account is obtained of the character rocks, minerals, marshes, rivers, timber, water, and other features in the natural history of each part of the country, the uses of which are too obvious to render it necessary that we

rocks, minerals, marshes, rivers, timber, water, and other features in the natural history of each part of the country, the uses of which are too obvious to render it necessary that we should indicate them.

The fourth schedule relates to agriculture, and includes the number of acres of land, cultivated or wild, their value, together with the value of the farming implements and agricultural machinery, the kinds, quantity, and value of the live stock, and enumerates thirty varieties of agricultural productions, of which each farmer was expected to render an account, and has rendered accordingly with perfect good will.

The fifth schedule relates to manufactures. It consists of 14 columns, in which are contained matters applicable to every branch of manufacture, not only "from a needle to an anchor," but "from a pin to a man-of-war." In the census of 1840 the tables for manufactures occupied about 200 columns, and were arranged, as such tables are generally, by placing at the head of the columns each branch of industry, and the name of each kind of manufacture. This arrangement was found frequently not to secure the information required, while it loaded the enumerators with a cumbrous supply of forms, in which a whole schedule would contain but a single item of information. By the late arrangement the first column requires the name of the manufacturer; the second, the name of the article produced; the third, the capital invested; the fourth, fifth, and sixth, the quantity, kind, and value of each article used in the process of manufacture; eventh, the kind of "motive power, machinery, structure, or other resource," these terms embracing water, steam, horse, and wind, and applicable to ships, mines, or manual labor. Columns eight and nine contain the number of male and female operatives employed, ten and elevan give the wages paid in each branch of industry, and twelve, thirof male and female operatives employed, ten and eleven give the wages paid in each branch of industry, and twelve, thir-teen, and fourteen give the quantity, kind, and velue of each

rticle produced.

The sixth schedule is framed for the purpose of showing article produced.

The sixth schedule is framed for the purpose of showing the value of property, the extent of taxation, and also of literary, educational, and religious establishments, of pauperism, crime, and wages throughout the Union. The returns show the total amount of every kind of tax paid in the various townships. They give the kind of each educational establishment, which may be a college, an academy, a common school, a female school, or a theological institution, giving the number of teachers and pupils, the extent of endowment, and the amount raised for its support by taxation, as well as from the pupils or other sources. The public libraties return their number, kind, and number of volumes. It appears that in the State of New York the number of schools is 7,000, free or supported by the State, and that the number of volumes in the libraries is 1,140,000. Under the head of "newspapers and periodicals" there is a return of the name, character, frequency of publication, and number published. Under the head of "churches" there is the number, denomination, and value of each church, chapel, or meeting-house, and the number of paupers and criminals, whether native or foreign, and the cost of support. Under the head of "wages" are included the average of wages to different classes of what we should call servants, as "farmhands," "female domestics," and the price of board to laboring men per week.

The work of collection these details was committed arimans.

The work of collecting these details was committed primarily to the marshals of each district—persons whose office nearly resembles that of high sheriff in this country. This officer appointed persons to take the census in each county, or, where necessary, in smaller subdivisions. To these assistants the blank schedules were furnished, together with a copy of instructions from the superintendent, from the office waters in all great basins t returns. I have been informed by the oldest settlers ear Chicago that Lake Michigan has subsided very considerably within thirty or forty years. In any severing this question I am admonished, by the length of this article, to state my hypothesis, and submit a few remarks, and submit a few remarks, and submit a few remarks and its present. I am also aware that my theory differs from the things I have read, but think it amply supported by existing I have read, but think it amply supported by existing facts.

It is supposed by Lyell and others that all considerable elevations on the earth's surface have been caused by upheavings from beneath. Now, if the Andes, Alleghanies, Appenines, from be neaded to meet the vacing of the vacuities produced by the event where against and exact of slaves and free persons of color, who were classified into those under 14, from 14 to 26, the water of the population is white the number of persons of the slaves was made with reference to their value, which, as a species undermeath them equal to the dimensions of those was made with reference to their value, which, as general rule, was supposed to vary according to the distance. This census a distinction was introduced an attention was introduced an attention

the gentleman by whom the whole has been superintended now visiting this country, and is about to travel in other E ropean States, for the purpose of collecting information as to the different methods of conducting census operations, and assisting to construct a plan which will sid Europe and Ame-rica in the comparison of results relating to this important department of economical science.

NICOTINE.

This is the name of the deadly poison through the agency f which the recent murder of Fugnies, in Belgium, by the Count Bocarme was effected. . We learn from Galignani's Paris Messenger that at a recent sitting of the French Academy of Medicine a report on nicotine was read by M. ORFILA. This report, which confirms facts already known, contains many new observations of interest to chemists and medical urisprudence relative to the properties of the poison and of its traces after death.

According to this document, nicotine was discovered in 1809, by Vauquelin, and is to be found in different kinds of nicotions, in various proportions. Havana tobacco contains two per cent., that of the Nord six, Virginia nearly seven, and that of Lot eight. Smokers, by inhaling the fumes of obacco, introduce into their system a certain quantity (though small) of poisonous matter. Pure nicotine has the appearance of an oily, transparent liquid, of a pale yellow color. which, after exposure, turns to brown. It is very hot to the taste, and its scrid smell slightly resembles that of tobacco;. but when volatilized by heat it throws out characteristic vapors, which are so oppressive that breathing becomes difficult in a room where a drop of the liquid has been spilled. As a poisonous substance, nicotine possesses excessive power. In experiments made about ten years ago, in ten minutes M. Orfila killed many dogs, on the tongues of which he had applied killed many dogs, on the tongues of which he had applied five drops of this sikali; with twelve drops death ensued in two minutes. But this powerful poison cannot escape the investigation of men of art. Pure nicotine, according to the conclusions of Messra. Orfila and Stas, has certain characters by which it is detected as easily as a mineral poison. It cambe discovered in the digestive channel, and its existence therein proved, though that channel contain but a few drops. And even when the poisonous substance has been absorbed, when it has passed into the other organs, is can still be discovered in those organs, and especially in the liver. M. Orfila has tried, on the liver of animals poisoned with twelve or fifteen drops of nicotine, two methods of chemical analysis, which he describes, and he has invariably succeeded in procuring certain quantities of the poisons sought for.

M. Stas, by making use of a third method on the body of Gustavus Fougnies, extracted nicotine from the tongue, the stomach, and liquid contained therein; he also found some in the liver and lungs. He moreover obtained it from the wood flooring of the dining-room in which Gustave died, although that flooring had been washed with soap, oil, and warm water; and, in his learned investigation, the Belgian toxologist had received ne indication from the judged instruction. Before he was informed that Bocarme had been making experiments relative to tobacco and nicotine, he had already found that the poison intraduced int the heefs of the

tion. Before he was informed that Bocarme had been making experiments relative to tobacco and nicotine, he had already found that the poison introduced into the body of the victim was neither sulphuric acid, (as had been supposed,) nor acetic acid, but either conicine or nicotine.

The progress which medical jurisconsults have made recently is so great that poisoning by morphine, strichnine, prussic acid, and other vegetable substances, hitherto regarded as inaccessible to our means of investigation, may now be detected and recognised in the most incontestable meaner.

M. Orfila, in closing his notice, might well say: "After these results of judicial medical investigation the public need be under no apprehension. No doubt intelligent and elever criminals, with a view to thwart the surgeons, will sometimes have recourse to very active poisons, little known by the mass and difficult of detection; but science is on the alert, and soon overcomes all difficulty. Penetrating into the utmost depths of our organs, it brings out the proof of the crims, and furnishes one of the greatest pieces of evidence against the guilty."

On former occasions (says an exchange paper) we have hed to do with old spitsphe. The following, in its prim civility, appears to us more than ordinarily, whimstell. It is its necribed from Lady, Emmeline Stuart Wortley's Journal of American Traval:

"T'attend you, sit, under these framed stones, Are come your honored son and daughter Jones, On each hand to repose their wearied bones."